

NEBRASKA NEWS.

Several days ago a 3-year-old son of William Greve of Fairbury fell and badly lacerated his throat with a toy trumpet held in his mouth. The boy died Tuesday from the effects of the wound.

E. A. Small's hardware store at Fairmont was entered by burglars Sunday night and \$100 worth of pocket knives and razors were taken. Entrance was through a rear window.

C. D. Woodruff, residing near Tecumseh, suffered a broken rib and other injuries while attempting to ride a wild horse Wednesday.

Lorenz Richling, a farmer about 72 years of age, was taken suddenly ill on last Sunday, died on Monday and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Creighton Thursday. Mr. Richling leaves an aged wife and a number of children.

Ex-Mayor Bernard King of York has published a circular offering \$50 reward for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the parties who set fire on Monday night to his store at Central City, Neb.

The Nebraska fish car was at Sidney Thursday and made its semi-annual distribution of fish. Black bass and rock bass, croppies, perch, cat and German carp were in eager demand and thousands will be planted in the numerous streams of western Nebraska. The car was in charge of Superintendent Adam Sioup and Commissioner Oberfelder.

Frank R. Wingfield of Crawford was in Chadron Thursday with a view of taking out his first papers toward becoming an American citizen. Mr. Wingfield has been a resident of this county for several years, but is a subject of the queen of England, and has the British flag hung up in his office at Crawford. Court did not convene and he is still a British subject. He is a regular republican nominee for district clerk. His party is all disorganized over the affair.

During a heavy rain storm lightning struck the large two-story frame hotel at Gresham, almost demolishing the front from roof to foundation. Heavy beams were torn out and scattered in fragments, pieces of siding were thrown 100 feet, loth and plaster was torn off in several rooms, three of which were occupied. How the occupants escaped injury or death and the house total destruction from fire are miracles beyond comprehension.

William Erwin, a farmer, living eight miles south of Fairbury, was killed by lightning. He was elevated on a jack-screw, when one of the rotten sills gave way, crushing his body so that he died on Sunday last.

Mrs. John Mitcham, of Fairbury, aged 74, while starting a fire Sunday, ignited her clothes and when the flames were extinguished she was fatally burned. She died after suffering intensely for several hours. She leaves a husband and three sons.

John Ottersburg, a well known farmer living near Adams, Gage county, was killed recently while helping a neighbor move a house. He crawled under the house, which was elevated on jack-screws, when one of the rotten sills gave way, crushing his body so that he died on Sunday last.

The big sugar factory of the Standard Beet Sugar company at Ames is about completed. The heavy machinery is all placed, the big steel smokestack has just been erected, the brick work is about finished, and the placing of the shafting will complete the work. The company has been shipping in help from eastern cities to rush the work as much as possible.

Reuben Miles of Rock Bluffs brought to Plattsmouth a report of having found the dead and decayed body of an unknown man across the river from the Bluffs half buried in a sand bar. The unfortunate individual had evidently been dead for months, and possibly since the high water of June and July. A portion of his face had dropped away and identification will be difficult unless his pockets contain some evidence of who he is. It was late when the report came in that the coroner did not go to the scene until the next day.

All the streets crossing the Union Pacific tracks in Columbus are now protected with an automatic alarm system. The wiring and electrical part of the work were done some time ago, but the wires were not connected with the gongs until Thursday. Under this system the gong is sounded when a train approaches within 200 feet of the crossing and continues until it has passed. Red and white lights are automatically displayed at night in addition to ringing the gong. The system has been tested and works well.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

One of New York's "yellow journals" is referred to by a Philadelphia contemporary as having "published more exclusive rumors than any other paper in the country."

Officials of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company say that they have been robbed of nearly \$50,000 in the last six weeks by the new conductors who have taken the place of the strikers of last July. The new men are said to have been "knocking down" fares indiscriminately, but the leakage has at last been stopped.

Dromedaries have a great love for tobacco smoke and can be made to do almost anything under its influence, and in Syria they rely more on it than on anything else to control these huge animals. In cases where the dromedaries have to work night and day to work night and day to accomplish a journey in the shortest possible time they are kept going with cigars. The driver carries a triangular piece of wood, and at one point like a cigar holder, into the mouth of the animal, the cigar being lighted and pressed into the hole in the fashion followed by man. The dromedary immediately shuts its eyes and pulls away through its nostrils the smoke of the cigar. The driver has an albatross in possession to go on a dromedary's back.



WHAT HAVE THE POPULISTS DONE?

"What have the pops done for Nebraska?" shouts the republican orator. "What has the tripartite partition of fusion and confusion done for Nebraska?" sneers J. Sterling Morton, as he searches among his files of old letters. "What, indeed?" echo a hundred or more little republican editors who never had a dozen original thoughts in their lives. What have the "pops" done for Nebraska? What has fusion done for Nebraska? Well, the people of Nebraska know what has been done and they have time and again expressed their approval thereof. In matters of legislation, beneficial to the whole people, the populist legislature of 1891, the demo-pop legislature of 1892 and the fusion legislature of 1897 can justly point with pride to their several records. The fusion executive state officers, beginning with Governor Holcomb in 1895 and extending down to the present, have every reason to believe their duties have been faithfully performed, and in the best possible manner. These matters of legislation and administration have been discussed in hundreds of columns of print, and the mere enumeration of the various items would occupy more space than I care to use in the present sketch. There is, however, one little amendment enacted by the populist legislature of 1891 which I purpose to discuss at this time. A republican legislature in 1871 enacted a law prescribing "the duties of the state treasurer," etc. (General Statutes, 1871.) Section 1 of that act provided that "all warrants upon the state treasurer... shall be paid in the order of their presentation therefor." And the quoted words have been the law ever since. Section 2 required the state treasurer to "keep a warrant register, which register shall show, in columns arranged for that purpose, the number, date and amount of each warrant presented and registered as hereinafter provided." And this section, so far as relates to the state treasurer, has never been changed. But section 3 deserves to be quoted in full, inasmuch as the administration of the state treasury thereunder has cost the taxpayers of Nebraska many thousand dollars of needless expense in the way of interest on state warrants: "Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of every state treasurer, upon the payment of a FEE OF TEN CENTS by the holder of any warrant, or by any person presenting the same for registration, in the presence of such person, to enter such warrant in his 'warrant register' for payment in the order of presenting for registration, and upon every warrant so registered, he shall endorse 'registered for payment,' with the date of such registration, and shall DRAW INTEREST FROM THE DATE OF SUCH PRESENTATION, as now provided by law."

Twenty years this miscellaneous section remained upon the statute books of Nebraska. Nine republican legislatures convened and adjourned without taking any steps to correct the mistake made by the legislature of 1871, and it became incumbent upon the populist legislature of 1891 to make such amendment thereto as would result in a saving to the taxpayers. Not much change was necessary, but that little was of vital importance. The fee of ten cents for registering a warrant was cut out, as was also the provision, and provision was made "that all warrants outstanding at the time this act takes effect shall be presented for payment or registration by August 1st, 1891, and shall not draw interest after such date unless so presented." The full intent of the latter clause will be made clear later on. For some years prior to, and including part of the year 1888, the state general fund had always money sufficient on hand to pay any warrant presented and registration of general fund warrants was, of course, unnecessary. But the legislature of 1887 had made appropriations exceedingly generous, if not extravagant, with the result that about September, 1888, the balance in the general fund began to diminish rapidly. On the 20th day of October 1888, the state treasurer presented to the auditor to E. H. Reynolds & Spence certain contractors for the erection of public buildings, aggregating over \$38,000. Of these warrants No. 48,717, for \$12,090.60, was presented to the state treasurer and paid October 20. At the close of business that night the general fund balance was only \$4,495.99. Two days later warrant No. 48,716, for \$25,249.40, was presented, but State Treasurer Willard had not enough funds to pay it. The holder did not care to invest ten cents to have it registered for payment—in fact, he preferred to let it be endorsed, "presented and not paid for want of funds," because, under the law, it would draw interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum from the date of such presentation, and there seemed to be no provision in the law whereby a warrant, so endorsed could be "called" by the treasurer and interest stopped. Apparently all the holder of such a warrant had to do was to keep it away from the state treasury and it might draw interest for an indefinite period, terminable only at the option of the holder of the warrant. If he should run short of ready money, the treasurer would cash it at any time, if he had sufficient funds on hand. Not to exceed six warrants were registered in the year 1888. The ten-cent fee was burdensome to the holders of small warrants, and the holders of the large warrants knew that those registered would be called and paid in a very short time—and they wanted a safe investment at 7 per cent. Section 1 of the law provides that all "warrants shall be paid in the order of their presentation therefor," but section 2 and 3, as then existing, rendered strict compliance with the law impossible. If all were compelled to register their warrants, compliance would have been easy; the treasurer would have stopped cash payments on the 1st of October, 1888, registered all general fund warrants as fast as presented and used all the available general fund balance from time to time in the payment of principal and interest on the registered warrants, taken in the order of their registry numbers. But the alternative of having warrants stamped with the endorsement, "presented and not paid for want of funds" threw the state treasury in confusion. From the 20th day of October, 1888, to the 21st day of January, 1889, the auditor issued 1,136 general fund warrants, being numbered from 48,716 to 49,851 inclusive, and aggregating the sum of \$269,639.62. Nearly all these warrants were presented to the treasurer within a few days after issue. Six hundred and three of them, aggregating \$96,190.25, were paid in cash presentation, and 563, aggregating \$173,530.36, were endorsed "presented (giving date) and not paid for want of funds." No attempt was made to pay these warrants "in the order of their presentation therefor." On January 7, 1889, J. M. Stewart presented warrant No. 49,410 for \$375; it was not paid for "want of funds" and received the customary endorsement. Stewart then disposed of it to a warrant broker, who in turn sold it to an eastern banking house; when it was finally paid, July 24, 1889, the taxpayers of Nebraska had to pay \$411.01 for the interest on the \$375. The eastern bank was not obliged to send in the warrant for payment and held it until almost the last moment. Two days after Mr. Stewart presented his warrant, Governor John M. Thayer presented warrant No. 49,411 for \$625, and was paid in cash the same day. On that day, also, D. B. Howard presented warrant No. 49,465 for \$411.01; his warrant received the usual endorsement, and when it finally came back to the treasury on July 24, 1891, the taxpayers of Nebraska were mulcted for \$72.30 interest. January 7, 1889, E. H. Reynolds presented warrant No. 49,411 for \$300, and had it endorsed. The eastern banking house which eventually came into possession of her warrant, sent it to the treasurer for registration, complying with the populist amendment to section 1. It was registered as No. 495 and was not paid until February 6, 1892, on which date the treasurer paid \$364.75 to redeem it. Nearly 23 per cent interest. These illustrations will suffice to show the chaotic condition of the state treasury in 1889 and 1890, caused primarily by defective republican laws, and secondarily, by an unbusinesslike administration thereof. The people of Nebraska paid \$77,978.90 in interest to redeem the \$173,530.36 of warrants heretofore mentioned as having been endorsed in compliance with the provision of the old section 1, or something over 14 per cent.

The balance in the general fund October 20, 1888, was \$4,495.99. Receipts from that date to January 21, 1889, were \$106,730.15, making a total of \$111,226.14. Now the total general fund warrants issued during that period amounted to \$269,639.62. Reese, if the present populist law had then been in force there would have been, on January 21, 1889, about \$154,404.15 of registered warrants outstanding, every dollar of which could have been paid in three months or less. In proof of this, I submit the following table of balances in the general fund:

February 1, 1889	\$ 61,154.34
March 1, 1889	49,736.38
April 1, 1889	99,851.11
May 1, 1889	155,501.95
June 1, 1889	135,565.28
July 1, 1889	248,889.99
August 1, 1889	225,322.47
September 1, 1889	189,720.12
October 1, 1889	105,544.59

Three months' interest on the total issue for the period under consideration would be only \$4,718.28. The interest on warrant No. 48,716 alone was \$5,844.14. But suppose the period of registration to be extended over a longer period, with warrants running full three months before payment, \$27,878.90 would pay such interest, at 7 per cent, on \$1,393,060. Republican extravagance and dishonesty, beginning with 1889, have saddled a great floating debt on Nebraska, soon honesty and economy are lifting that debt, although not so rapidly as could be done under more prosperous conditions. CHAS. Q. DE FRANCE.

Reese's Rake-off. A list of state warrants issued to C. B. Reese, wife, and H. A. Reese, son of Chief Justice Reese, the "father of nepotism in Nebraska:"

March 21, 188, H. A. Reese, warrant No. 46670, amount \$22.
September 13, 1888, H. A. Reese, warrant No. 46361 amount \$10.
January 4, 1889, H. A. Reese, warrant No. 49421, amount \$23.
April 9, 1889, H. A. Reese, warrant No. 52051, amount \$24.
May 31, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 52953 amount \$48.
June 14, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 53183, amount \$40.
June 29, 1889, H. A. Reese, warrant No. 53313, amount \$48.
August 12, 1889, H. A. Reese, warrant No. 54015, amount \$123.
August 30, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 54154, amount \$64.
September 15, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 54284, amount \$36.
September 20, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 54481, amount \$40.
October 14, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 55185, amount \$64.
November 1, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 55285, amount \$44.
November 27, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 55664, amount \$60.
December 10, 1889, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 56175, amount \$60.
January 2, 1890, C. B. Reese, warrant No. 56687, amount \$60.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

New York is fighting its soft coal smoke. Cleveland ranks as the greatest iron ore market in the world. In Germany a tramp is called a "chaisiergrabenarbeiter." There are thirty-seven gold-producing counties in the 150,000 square miles of California's area. For every 1,000,000 inhabitants in Russia there are only ten newspapers and journals of all sorts. Cattle raising in Georgia has reached a point where there is a surplus, and the surplus is coming west. Italy has bought the Burghese Museum and Gallery in Rome for 3,000,000 francs, to be paid in ten annual installments. While plowing on his farm near Petersburg, Ind., Joshua Dean unearthed ninety-four flint spearheads and two skeletons. Siberia and the Amur country possess advantages very similar to those of North America, Australia and parts of South Africa. The newest "lucky piece" is a carved ivory rabbit, not bigger than the palm of the hand. The savings of the enlisted men in the British navy amount to nearly \$2,000,000, all of which is on deposit with the government. The Italian cruiser Garibaldi, recently launched at Genoa from the yards of the Ansaldo, was launched nine months after the keel was laid. The American Distilling company has a concession from the Venezuelan government covering the right to make whisky and other liquors. A fruit grower in Mendocino county, California, has this season shipped 89,883 pounds of Bartlett pears, which were raised on four and one-half acres of ground. The mineral resources of western Siberia are vast. Between Tomsk and Kozneck lie 50,000 square kilometers (23,167 square miles) of coal lands which have never been touched. Raleigh, N. C., has the largest pair of oak trees in the United States, when symmetry of trunk and top is taken into consideration. They stand 300 yards north of the capital. The opinion that malaria is conveyed to human beings by mosquitoes has long been held by the people of East Africa, according to the information given in Wickenburg's "Wanderungen Ostafrika." Tallahassee, the flower-bedecked capital city of Florida, boasts that it is the only American city founded by a member of the immediate family of Napoleon Bonaparte, Colonel Charles Louis Napoleon Achille Murat. A woman with pale ears can be safely set down as one whose heart is hard to reach, while she whose ears are pink along the curled rims and downy lobes is a creature of sympathetic and responsive temperament. A New Jersey man has patented a hitching post which will accommodate bicycles as well as horses, the portion of the post nearest the pavement being provided with slots of sufficient width to admit the wheel of the machine. A 5-year-old boy of Brentwood, England, has received the Royal Humane society's diploma for jumping into the water and saving the life of his baby brother. He believes to be the youngest certified life-saver on record. A fly so minute as to be almost invisible, ran three inches in half a second, and was calculated to make no less than 519 steps in the time a healthy man would take to breathe once. A man with proportionate ability could run twenty-four miles in a minute. Fingers are valued at a high price in Australia. A Melbourne boy of 8 had his fingers crushed in a gate at a level crossing, and one had to be amputated. An action on his behalf was brought against the state railroad department. The jury awarded the full amount claimed, \$5,000. An ingenious person residing in Little Rock, Ark., has patented an inflatable boat. One gets into it, sits down, fastens a sheet of rubber about his waist and blows the thing up. The craft, moreover, may be adapted for the use of two or more occupants if desired. A notice in the London Times of August 31 illustrates the simplicity of the English system of preparing the final lists of the persons liable for jury duty. "On and after tomorrow for twenty-one days," says the notice, "the lists of persons liable to serve as jurymen in England and Wales will be exhibited on the doors of the churches and chapels and other places of public worship over the country. These lists are open to public inspection. Unless objection is made to the overseers of the various parishes during September by persons who are exempt and whose names appear on the lists, their names will be returned to the clerk of the peace and they will be liable to serve a special and common juries for the ensuing year. During the last week of September the justices hold a petty session to correct the lists and to allow notices of objection to the overseers." W. D. Hunter, a special agent, has reported to Dr. Howard, the entomologist of the agricultural department, in regard to a recent statement to the effect that it was considered by entomologists that the Turtle mountain region, in North Dakota and Montana, probably was a permanent breeding ground of the destructive migratory grasshopper, a statement which occasioned much alarm and indignation on the part of railroads and other land owners. This region, therefore, was carefully scrutinized by Mr. Hunter, who reports that the migratory grasshopper does not breed permanently in the Turtle mountains nor in that vicinity. The ground is perfectly unsuited to breeding, and, moreover, swarms descending farther east have been traced from far to the northeast of that place. The probable breeding ground, he thinks, is on the Assiniboine river, north and east of Regina. A system is to be established in Philadelphia this fall, whereby teachers will be given permission to take their classes for one-half day, twice a year, to Fairmount park and to the Zoological Gardens, such visits to be regarded as a part of the regular class duties. In Germany such an arrangement is a regular part of the program in many of the schools. Speaking on the subject, Superintendent Brooks of the Philadelphia schools said that one of the principal subjects of instruction in the elementary schools is nature study, including lessons on both animals and plants. Through the generosity of the managers of the Zoological Gardens, the superintendent is furnished annually with about 125,000 tickets, which admit both teachers and pupils to the gardens, and to make the visits of greater benefit to the children, the teachers, he said, should accompany their pupils, while the information obtained by such visits can be utilized in subsequent instructions in the class room. Like advantages, he claimed, will result from a similar arrangement at the park, under the supervision of a teacher who is qualified to point out the objects of interest.